

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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Air Power

Quote of the Week

"As a young boy dreaming of becoming an airman, if I had a choice between becoming chief of staff of the Air Force or becoming a fighter ace, I would have chosen to become a fighter ace."

—Gen. Thomas White
Air Force chief of staff, 1973

Security forces deploy 13

Team supports Operation Southern Watch

By 2nd Lt. Dejon Redd

Public affairs

Thirteen people from the 47th Security Forces Squadron departed Thursday on a 90-day deployment to Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, to provide base security in support of Operation Southern Watch.

As part of Aerospace Expeditionary Force 6, the team knew it could deploy between May and July and started gearing up in January.

Operation Southern Watch began shortly after the Persian Gulf War ended. Today the operation's objective is to enforce the no-fly zone south of the 33rd parallel.

Eskan Village is located about 13 miles from the capital of Riyadh. The desert climate typically produces temperatures over 110 degrees, with an average rainfall of only five inches per year. These harsh conditions require the airmen to be in top physical shape and to remain focused on the job ahead.

"I don't know if anything can prepare you for the heat," said Tech Sgt. Brad Rials, team chief. "It is extremely hard work, but [the new troops] will learn a lot, and we will get the job done."

While in the desert the airmen will provide base security, similar to the mission they execute here.

"We are ready to do whatever is asked of us in regards to force protection," Rials said. "This is not my first time going over. I know what to expect. It's going to be a real fast-paced job with not a whole lot of time off... You hit the ground running."

Previous deployments by the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Tech. Sgt. David Hirtreiter (center), 47th Mission Support Squadron Personnel Readiness NCOIC, reviews a deployment checklist Tuesday with Airman Malcolm Drake (left), 47th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, and Airman 1st Class Nick Carpenter, 47th SFS desk sergeant, prior to their deployment Thursday.

47th SFS have seen troops inspecting cars for explosive devices and chemicals that could be used to manufacture them, as well as providing security for operations and munitions areas and for complexes used by the coalition forces.

The team includes four troops who are making their first deployment with the SFS. For Airman Daniel Olivares, this will be his first overseas experience.

"I'm both anxious and excited to see what it will be like," Olivares said. "This is something I've never experienced and probably won't experience again outside the military."

Olivares arrived at Laughlin nine months ago, just out of technical

training.

"The hardest part is leaving my wife," he said, "but knowing so far in advance has helped."

Advance notice of the deployment is a direct effect of the AEF program, which has made military deployments more predictable for servicemen and women. There are 10 rotating AEF teams, and each has a three-month window of possible deployment.

"We have been able to better prepare with more advanced notice," Rials said.

Squadron and base people sent the group on its way Thursday with a farewell cookout. The team is expected back in late August.

Commanders' Corner



By Col. Jack Egginton
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Summer fun calls for summer safety

Last year, eight people in Air Education and Training Command lost their lives in off-duty accidents. Summer isn't even here, and we've already surpassed that number.

I hope this statistic caught your attention because it certainly caught mine. As we enter the 101 Critical Days of Summer, I think it's vital to reiterate the importance of safety and using common sense while on and off duty.

As most of you probably know, during the 101 Critical Days of Summer – the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day – the accident rate traditionally goes up across the

entire Air Force. The summer may be a time to have fun and relax, but it also offers enough distractions to throw off even the most attentive minds.

Although we talk safety and brief safety a lot in the military, the reality is that many people only think about safety while they're at work. So what happens when they're driving their cars to the marina on the weekend, riding their jet skis or cooking out in their backyards?

Oftentimes, the answer is that safety takes the back seat to some other misplaced priority – getting somewhere quickly or not being in-

convenienced by a seemingly silly safety rule. We all know we can be safe and still have a good time, but it's far too easy to fall into the mentality of "It won't happen to me," or "Just this once..."

As you enjoy the summer and spend quality time with friends, I ask that you take that extra step to keep yourself and your family safe. Measure the risks involved in each activity, make sound judgments and decisions and ask yourselves, "What is the right thing to do?" – and then do it! I would also ask that you pay particular attention to two areas: driving and water sports. Every year, these

activities claim the most lives.

When it comes to accidents, hindsight is 20/20. If we knew then what we know now, most accidents would never have happened. Unfortunately, we don't have a crystal ball so we have no choice but to remind ourselves – and others – to think and practice safety every day.

So far Laughlin has been fortunate; we haven't lost anyone to a fatal accident in the last two years.

That's a trend we should be proud of and pray continues. With your support and commitment, I know we can have another summer that's both fun and safe!

Top Three Talk



By Master Sgt. Douglas Brodmerkel
47th Operations Support Squadron
Life Support superintendent

Success depends on character of individual

I always knew I would join the Air Force. At age 13, I was sending away for Air Force information and calling recruiters. When I joined in 1982, I thought I would serve four years, see the sights, go to school, and move on. But, it didn't take long for me to realize that the Air Force was where I belonged. I embraced the challenges, camaraderie and sense of pride in serving the Air Force wholeheartedly. When it came time to reenlist, it was a "no brainer" for me.

I am presently assigned to the 47th Operations Support Squadron Life Support section, whose primary responsibility is assembly, fitting and maintenance of helmets, oxygen masks, parachutes, "G-suits" and other lifesaving items.

I have always been careful to remember the

deadly serious nature of our business. Whether it is fitting helmets, cutting orders or dropping ordinance on target, we are all in the business of war. The new pilots driving out the gate today will more than likely be called upon to apply their skills in conflict. How well they do can be traced back to how well we did our jobs.

Laughlin trains the Air Force of tomorrow. Over time, I have seen many changes in the way we do business in the service, from privatization and outsourcing to base closures.

I have come to realize that change is inevitable and is a necessity for continued success in any organization. The Air Force and military are no exception to this rule. The one constant throughout the evolution of our Air Force has been, and al-

ways will be, the character required of the individuals who serve.

I have always taken pride in being a member of the military. I have had the honor of working with the most professional individuals at numerous bases and in different career fields. During this time, I have discovered one undeniable fact: If you do not demand the qualities of integrity, loyalty and respect from yourself first, you may find it impossible to be successful.

People measure success in different ways. When I look back at the many achievements, unique experiences, and long-lasting friendships I have enjoyed in the Air Force, I feel a pride and a strong sense of accomplishment that I certainly call success.

Col. Jack Egginton
Commander

1st Lt. Dawnita Parkinson
Public affairs chief

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

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Submissions can be e-mailed to:
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or
reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

Air Force high standards must be met

View from the Top



By Gen. Hal M. Hornburg
AETC commander



Gen. Hornburg

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Throughout my 33 years as an airman, a common and often-used phrase has been, “Take care of your people, and they’ll take care of the mission.”

I believe in that adage today, just as I did when I was a much younger and less experienced airman. But over the years, it seems that “taking care of our people” has sometimes been translated into “covering for people” or overlooking lapses in duty performance and conduct. Helping someone keep a sparkling clean record when their performance and conduct suggest otherwise winds up hurting both our people and our Air Force.

Turning a blind eye to poor performance or misconduct is not at all what is meant by “taking care of our people” and is counter to our core values of integrity, service and excellence.

The standards of conduct and performance are meant for each of us – from the newest airmen to our most senior leaders. We can’t disre-

gard the rules on behalf of a few because doing so diminishes the performance of the vast majority of our people who are committed to those standards.

I expect our leaders at all levels to know the difference between a mistake and misconduct. People of all ages and ranks can and do learn from a mistake and many go on to do great things. Misconduct is another thing entirely. Let me explain the difference.

A mistake is a negative outcome because of inexperience, poor foresight or inadequate planning. The intentions may have been honest and good, but perhaps the outcome was not. Misconduct, on the other hand, is deliberately taking an action that violates standards or is wrong.

One area in which there is absolutely no room for interpretation is the use of illegal drugs. Drug abuse is incompatible with military service and airmen who abuse drugs are subject to discharge for misconduct. It’s that simple and direct.

Nonjudicial punishment or court-martial proceedings may also be the outcome of illegal drug use. The disciplinary action can very possibly affect more than your Air Force future; it could im-

pact the rest of your life.

I am determined to do everything I can to keep illegal drug use out of AETC. Random testing coupled with increased education and taking appropriate disciplinary actions in response to violations of this important standard will help us eliminate illegal drugs from AETC.

Random drug testing for many years has been and will continue to be a key element of the Air Force’s effort to maintain a drug-free environment. It’s interesting that more and more civilian employers have mandatory drug testing for potential employees because they, too, see the dangers of illegal drug use in our society and the hazardous impact it has in the workplace.

I see this effort as part of the solemn commitment we’ve made to America’s mothers and fathers who trust us to train and take

care of their sons and daughters.

Keeping our workplaces and communities free of illegal drugs is one of the best ways to take care of our people. By doing so, they truly will take care of the mission, and they’ll do it safely.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

“Helping someone keep a sparkling clean record when their performance and conduct suggest otherwise winds up hurting both our people and our Air Force..”

-Gen. Hal Hornburg
AETC commander

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven’t been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal

reply. It’s also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Col. Jack Egginton
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Question: I’m calling about a problem in the child development center. My child has been bitten several times and has only been there two months. I spoke to the director about this and have been told their reports say they don’t know what happened. I just feel like something needs to be done.

Answer: I appreciate your bringing this to our attention, and I am sorry this took

place. Biting is a bothersome, but natural developmental milestone for most toddlers. It is usually self-limited and normally does not require intervention. However, in a situation where intervention is required, the parent, director, care provider and training and curriculum specialist work together to implement a plan to reduce this behavior.

Laughlin’s child development center staff is trained in all aspects of child development, to include child abuse, neglect, positive guidance, and

redirection. This helps reduce these incidents.

We are concerned and have taken measures to increase monitoring of the children in this age group and hopefully curb any future incidents. It is the CDC’s ultimate goal to keep your child safe and healthy while supporting the 47th Flying Training Wing’s mission.

For additional information, call the CDC director at 298-5419 or the family member programs flight chief at 298-4337.

Officers' spouses' club awards scholarships

By Capt. Angela O'Connell

96th Flying Training Squadron
executive officer

The Laughlin Officers' Spouses' Club gave \$9,000 in scholarships to nine family members during a banquet at Club XL May 16.

The OSC raised \$8,000 through various fundraisers, and USPA & IRA donated \$1,000.

Scholarship categories were military spouse, high school senior and post high school dependent. Family members of Air Force active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired or deceased people were eligible for the annual scholarships.

The OSC scholarship committee selected winners based on essays, community involvement and grade-point average.



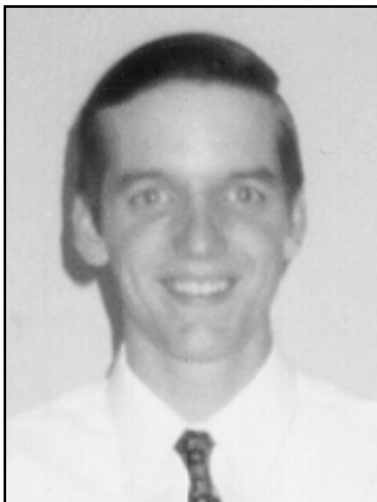
Michelle A. Bosarge
Military spouse



Jennifer M. Clinchard
Military spouse



Eva C. Garrett
High school senior



Brooks I. Mattison
Post high school dependent



Stacy L. Morgan
Military spouse



Helena W. Morrison
Military spouse



Rebecca L. Neal
USPA and IRA



Nathan W. Poerner
High school senior



Andraya M. Young
Post high school dependent

Newslines

Blood drive held today

Representatives from South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will accept blood donations at the Fiesta Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.

Anyone 17 or older, weighing at least 110 pounds, and in good health may donate blood. Donors should eat one to four hours before donating blood. They should also drink plenty of fluids. Proper identification is required.

For more information or to sign up, call Sabrina Pena at 298-5327.

Memorial to be held

A memorial service for Tech. Sgt. (retired) Melvin L. Hover will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the base chapel. Hover served Laughlin as a quality assurance evaluator for the 47th Transportation Division.

MPF closes for upgrade

The MPF will be closed from 7:30-11:30 a.m. June 4 so a new software system can be brought on line. For more information, call Senior Airman Andre Cardenas at 298-5605.

Sidewalk project to end

Repairs to sidewalks in the housing area are scheduled for completion in June.

The contractor is required to restore lawns and common areas torn up during the repair project. Residents should report, in writing, areas damaged during sidewalk repairs to the civil engineer flight by June 1.

For more information, contact Richard Fry at 298-5058.

Returnees get days off

Air Education and Training Command has set the following policies regarding people returning from Professional Military Education courses and deployments:

Commanders will give people returning from PME courses lasting 30 days or more one day off work after they have returned to their bases.

Commanders will give people returning from deployments lasting six to 11 weeks seven days off work upon their return. People returning from deployments lasting 12 weeks or longer will receive 14 days off work.

Special passes must be processed in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3003, paragraph 8.3.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

School Day photo

1st Lt. Christopher Vasquez, 87th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, puts on a G-suit with help from students at Buena Vista Elementary School. Vasquez, along with Capt. Deryck Hill, 47th Medical Group pharmacist (looking on), Col. Herb Foret, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, and others from Laughlin participated in the school's career day giving children a glimpse of what people do at Laughlin.

Three reenlist in May

Compiled from staff reports

Tech. Sgt. Thomas E. Hensley, 47th Operation Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Javier Aguirre, 47th Support Group; and Senior Airman Rory P. Halpin, 47th Operation Squadron Squadron, are Laughlin's most recent reenlistees. Each reenlisted in individual ceremonies in May.

They will be recognized for their commitments to the Air Force at the wing's enlisted promotion ceremony at 3 p.m. Thursday at Club Amistad.

Airmen considering staying in or getting out of the Air Force can discuss their career options with Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis, 47th Flying Training Wing career assistance adviser, at 398-5456.

For the latest edition of
Air Force News
tune to local cable channel 34

Base first to test purchase-card program

By José Acosta

*47th Contracting Squadron
CARE program manager*

Laughlin became the first Air Force base to certify its government purchase card payment to the US Bank using the recently implemented Customer Automated and Reporting Environment May 3.

CARE is a Web-based customer service automated program, which enables government purchase cardholders, billing officials, resource advisers and finance service officers to interface electronically with US Bank.

A beneficial feature of CARE is

the instant access to government purchase card (formerly known as IMPAC) accounts where the cardholders and billing officials can document, review and reconcile purchases on a daily basis.

Under CARE, billing officials have the capability to immediately approve their assigned accounts for payment at the end of every billing cycle, which will result in higher rebates from US Bank.

At Laughlin alone, there are approximately 120 government purchase card accounts and 150 cardholders diligently making the purchases for supplies, equipment and other products required in support of Laughlin's Spe-

cialized Undergraduate Pilot Training mission.

Organizational units at Laughlin purchased \$4,760,000 on the government VISA card in fiscal year 2000. This volume of purchases generated \$32,844 in rebates to the base. An estimated \$44,268 in rebates will be received by purchasing organizations under CARE.

All other Air Force bases will note the lessons learned from the activation of CARE at Laughlin. Remaining Air Education and Training Command bases implement CARE in June. Other Air Force commands are scheduled to roll out CARE between August and the beginning of the next calendar year.

**Poor health
Lost income
Confinement
Dishonorable
discharge**

Ecstasy?

**Maybe they
should change
the name.**

Fraud, Waste and Abuse
Preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse is everyone's job! If you know or suspect FWA, call the FWA Hotline at 298-4170, or call the Inspector General office at 298-5638.

The *XL*er



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Tech. Sgt. Eudocio Garcia
47th Comptroller Flight

Hometown: Brownsville
Family: Wife, Hilda; daughters, Jennifer, 14, and Ashley, 9; son, Eddie, 12
Time at Laughlin: 16 months
Time in service: 16 years
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Have a "family center"

with pizza, arcade, games, etc.
Greatest accomplishment: My wife and I raising three wonderful children
Hobbies: Golf and racquetball
Bad habit: Straying from my desk
Favorite food: Any type of

chicken dish
Favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper
If you could spend one hour with any person, whom would it be and why? President Truman; to get an insight on his decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan

International airmen prove value of dissimilar training

By Master Sgt.
Louis A. Arana-Barradas

Air Force Print News

PAYA LEBAR AIR BASE, Singapore – American F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots ended more than a week of mock aerial combat over the South China Sea May 16 against jets from Australia and Singapore.

The dogfights were part of Com-mando Sling, an exercise designed to sharpen the dissimilar air-to-air combat skills of participating aircrews.

Airmen from the New Mexico Air National Guard's 188th Fighter

Squadron flew against Australian F/A-18s and Singaporean F-16, F-5 and A-4 jets. The guardsmen were able to fly and fight against airmen from the two other nations on all 73 of their missions.

That 100-percent rate was the "best rate we've ever had for a 'Sling,'" said Lt. Col. Billy Songer, 497th Combat Training Squadron operations officer.

The Singapore-based 497th CTS hosts up to six of the training exercises annually. The goal is to provide airmen the chance to fly against other types of aircraft at least 50 per-

cent of the time.

The training builds up from basic one-on-one encounters to dogfights between flights of up to six airplanes. This allows pilots to reinforce their offensive and defensive maneuvers before moving to the next step, said Maj. Fred Hartwig, an F-16 pilot and deployment project officer for the New Mexico guardsmen.

"We don't get to train much against dissimilar aircraft back home, so we end up training against ourselves," Hartwig said. "This is invaluable training for us."

The objective for the pilot in each

mission, he said, is to "kill and survive."

"Working with a multinational group of airmen is great experience," said 1st Lt. Jonothan Tyson, an F-16 pilot. "The Australians and Singaporeans are great pilots. Plus, we learn the characteristics of their aircraft."

But the Australian and Singaporean airmen proved a handful for the New Mexico guardsmen, based at Kirtland Air Force Base. Hartwig said their opponents are not

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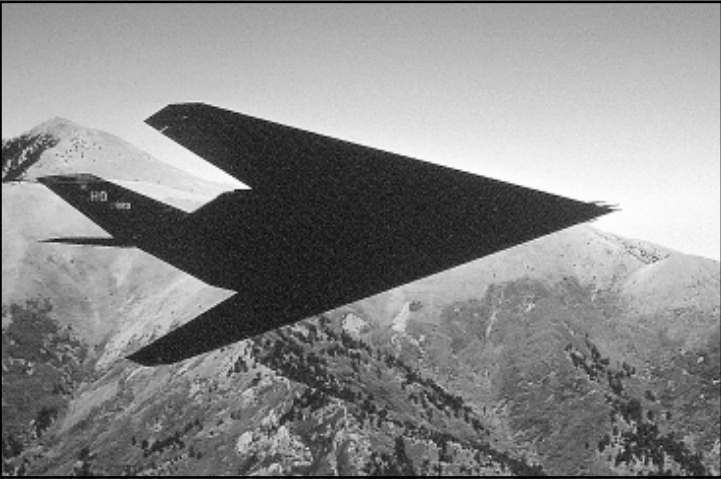
Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

On a roll

Diana Poerner, family member, practices making lumpias, Filipino egg rolls, during the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Committee's annual open house at the Fiesta Center Tuesday. The event gave people who attended a taste of Asian-Pacific culture through a variety of food, arts-and-crafts displays and entertainment.

Where are they now?

Name: Lt. Col. Mike Mangus
Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 86-01, Nov. 2, 1985.
Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: F-117, Holloman AFB, N.M.
Mission of your current aircraft? Precision airstrike
What do you like most about your current aircraft? The mission
What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? The visibility from the cockpit
What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? To keep in touch with your classmates. You don't know if you'll ever see them again. I just lost a bud in the UK from my class.
What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Solo X-C and a burner climb-out from DYS
What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Make sure you ask for the jet you really want, and study hard.



U.S. Air Force photo

'Training,' from page 8

only well-trained, but capable pilots who "impressed us with their skills."
The Australians tried to make it as tough as they could for the F-16 pilots with their different tactics, said Australian Wing Commander Neil Hart, commander of No. 3 Squadron.
"The big thing people get out of fighting

the Australians is that we are aggressive in the way we fly and fight with the F-18," Hart said. "The [F-16 pilots] saw some pretty aggressive tactics from us they're not used to."
Hartwig said his airmen were quick to adjust to the new tactics they faced.
"Besides, learning how to recognize and deal with the different tactics other pilots use against us is what this exercise is all about," he said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

‘Putt’ing around

Gene Fira, 47th Operations Group aircraft maintenance mechanic, practices putting before shooting a round of golf Thursday at the Leaning Pine Golf Course. The course and the golf shop are open to base

employees and their guests from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. Rates are based on pay grade. For more information, call Roy Goodwin, Leaning Pine Golf Course manager, at 298-5451.

Sports Briefs

Football registration held

The Jets tackle football team is currently holding early registration for the Amistad Pee Wee Football League.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Robert Van at 298-7971.

Base triathlon rescheduled

The Laughlin Triathlon has been rescheduled. The competition will start at 9 a.m. June 9 at the Friendship Pool. Registration beings at 8:30 a.m.

Events include a 400-meter swim, 11 miles of biking and a 5-kilometer run. There must be a minimum of four males and four females competitors to hold this event.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. John Fastinger at 298-5251

Racquetball players needed

The XL Fitness Center staff is looking for individuals to participate in a racquetball ladder. People interested must sign up at the fitness center by June 4.

For more information, call 298-5251.

Regular visits
to the
fitness center
may prevent
regular visits
to the clinic.

